

The European Widgeon at Gardner's Island, New York.—At Gardner's Island, New York, on December 3, 1911, the writer, in company with Mr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Stanley Ladow, had the good fortune to see two adult male European Widgeons (*Mareca penelope*). They were in the North Inlet with a great flock of waterfowl numbering approximately 1000 Baldpates, and 300 Redheads, with a sprinkling of Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaups and Black Ducks.

The Widgeons were observed from a low hill overlooking the inlet, under unusually favorable conditions of light and position. They were watched through powerful binoculars for many minutes, at a distance of probably not over 150 or 175 feet, and were most satisfactorily identified.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*) in Winter near Portland, Maine.—

The Pintail, as it occurs in Maine, is one of the less common, and less hardy migrants, of more frequent occurrence in fall than in spring. Although Mr. George A. Boardman, cited it as "rare in winter"¹ he gave a different statement for the History of North American Birds,² and we must regard his first statement as unverified, according to existing literature.

The next definite consideration, perhaps was that of E. A. Samuels, who gave its New England status, as "September 10 to the last week in October."³

Finally⁴ Mr. N. C. Brown showed that it had been known to remain in the vicinity of Portland, Maine, on one occasion until November 7.⁵

In 1893, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney entered in his private journal, on November 25 the capture of one at Small Point, Maine, and in 1895, Mr. Walter H. Rich secured a pair, male and female, which had been shot February 10, at Cow Island, Casco Bay. One was taken November 20, 1901, at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, but was not preserved. A female was shot at Scarborough, December 9, 1911, the skull of which is preserved.

On February 15, 1912, in company with Messrs. I. W. and E. B. Pillsbury—both men of long experience and familiarity with our shore and water birds—I saw a Pintail drake among many Black Ducks near Martain's Point Bridge between Portland and Falmouth. This was at noon of a bright day, and with glasses, the markings, its dark head, and crissum, attenuated tail and slender outlines, its manner of feeding, rendered both its species and its sex unmistakable. On the day previous Mr. E. B. Pillsbury and game warden George Cushman had seen it at the same place, when it

¹ 1862. Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., IX: p. 129.

² 1884. Water Birds 11: 514.

³ 1870. Birds of New Eng. and Adjacent States, p. 492.

⁴ In his Feathered Game of the Northeast, 1907, p. 314, Mr. W. H. Rich without specifying time, or place, mentions a pair, "shot in some of the severest winter weather." These birds, now in his possession, were taken in this vicinity, and he has most kindly given me the data credited to him, in this article.

⁵ Proc. Portland Soc. N. H. ii: pp. 31.

was observed to fly for several hundred yards, with characteristic speed and strength. That it was not a new comer is indicated by the fact that Mr. John Whitney, a man with a gunner's keen knowledge of the Anatinae, had reported some weeks earlier, a Pintail wintering in the vicinity. That the bird was strong of wing, after, evidently, surviving the low temperature, of the previous week, which ranged each night below zero Fahrenheit, indicates that it had remained through choice, rather than necessity, and with the foregoing notes, shows that the Pintail occasionally spends at least a considerable part of the winter as far northeast as Portland, Maine.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) **in Minnesota.**—Late in the Autumn of 1905 a local hunter of this city shot an adult male White-winged Scoter on Lake Minnetonka. I examined this duck in the flesh and tried to buy it but the owner preferred to keep it and had it mounted by the late Henry W. Howling of Minneapolis. It was subsequently destroyed by a house cat.

On Nov. 14, 1911, I secured from a local hunter an adult female in perfect plumage, shot on Lake Minnewashta some two miles distant from this village. This was the only one seen and was not near any other species of duck. Cold weather with snow-storms had prevailed for three days prior to its capture. It was fat and in good condition.—ALBERT LANO, *Excelsior, Minn.*

The Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) **Wintering in New Jersey.**—On January 21, 1912, an adult Bittern was brought to me alive by my nephew, Robert W. Moore. It had been caught by him the day previous while he was skating at Walker's Pond about a mile and a half southeast of Haddonfield, N. J. For several days the bird had been noted about the pond in a weakened condition. No wounds were discoverable, but its stomach was empty and, I have no doubt, it was weak from lack of food. Two days after it was captured it died in captivity and was mounted.

Since the 5th of January snow had covered the ground and the extraordinary continuance of the freezing weather from that date to the 20th must have made the securing of its chosen food impossible. Possibly the unusual period of warm weather, which lasted throughout the early winter to January 5, tempted this bird, as well as many other species which usually go south, to winter with us. The latest previous record for the state seems to have been November 19, 1878, at a point much farther south in Cape May Co., and the earliest spring record March 30, so that this instance may fairly be termed the first recorded case of this species wintering in the state.—ROBERT THOMAS MOORE, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

Recent Occurrence of the Egret (*Herodias egretta*) **near Portland, Maine.**—Although a few authentic records have been made of the occurrence in Maine of the Egret (*Herodias egretta*), the increasing scarcity of